

JOHN

was going to be a priest.
He also taught history, and he
loved philosophy, especially
Heidegger.
John fell in love and chased her
from east to west coast.
Married and divorced. No kids.
Did handyman chores. Owned a
restaurant with a partner.
It went bankrupt.
Ran away a lot.
Worked in the mountains.
Came back to this small river town
where he now stays in a tiny
cabin, and is a garbage collector.
He still reads Heidegger.
He drinks dry martinis.
He once gave me an identification
bracelet without a name on it.
That is the real story
of John.

GROWING UP

When I was a kid
I wanted to be a movie star,
a dancer & a singer. Then
I decided I wanted to be a race
horse owner and always live alone.
From there, I dreamed of being
the first woman to pitch in a
world series game. By the time
I was in my teens, all I wanted
was to be someone's girlfriend,
and go to dances and movies.
At sixteen I became a wife,
and by 17, a mother.
By then all I wanted was to
get the bills paid and eat.
More kids, and finally a home,
and somewhere in between I was
always writing poems. I even learned
to play a few chord on the guitar
and wrote three songs.
Meanwhile the kids grew up.

One of them writes songs and has
a band. One just wants to pay
the bills. The other dances.
I'm going to be forty-four this
year and I wonder what I want to be
when I grow old.

-- Ann Menebroker

Wilton CA

FOR KENNETH PATCHEN

maybe the fact that
i
grew up around
Wheeling
lets me understand
your little
orange bears
better
than any
Rockefeller
or
even a
Kennedy.

ST. JUKE

some say eternity is
forever. that's what
it's all about. well
you take it. i can't
deal with that. give
me some wine and a
piece of Trakl's nightmare.
at least i'm at home there.
now don't cry to me. that's
your thing. i got my scars.
paid some heavy dues. baby
i'm a lifetime allpaidup
charter member. so here:
take it. you take eternity.
i'll settle for her smile.

-- Steve Troyanovich

Florence NJ